

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and system for filtering and/or handling operating system (OS) runtime exceptions using firmware-based components. OS-based exception handling components and corresponding pointers, as applicable, are set up in a conventional manner during the OS load. The OS-based components are then physically or logically relocated (moved from a physical to virtual address in one embodiment, re-referencing a base address for the OS-based components in another embodiment) and physically or logically replaced with corresponding firmware-based exception filters/handler components. In response to a runtime exception, the execution stream (*i.e.*, instruction pointer) is vectored to a firmware-based exception filter/handler that performs exception filtering and/or handling for the exception. Upon completion, the execution stream may be re-vectored to a corresponding OS-based exception handler. A firmware-based exception filter/handler may be used to augment an OS-based exception handler, or replace it.